

EXCERPTED

REGULAR WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING
Jan. 16, 1991
Time: 11:05 a.m.
Location: White House, Briefing Room

The Washington Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Washington Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
New York Daily News _____
USA Today _____
The Chicago Tribune _____
Reuter
Date 16 Jan 1991

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN MARLIN FITZWATER: I'll go ahead and open with a summary of where we are with the Iraq situation. January 15th was the deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. It was not a deadline for the use of force. The choice for peace remains with Saddam Hussein. As the president said last Saturday, Saddam could begin a massive pullout at any time. We would have to judge it in that context. In the absence of any pullout by Saddam Hussein, we continue to consider our options. U.N. resolution 678 authorizes the use of force to implement the U.N. call for the complete withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

The president has gone beyond the extra mile for peace. Saddam Hussein has yet to take the first step.

This morning, the president met with his regular National Security briefing team, which includes the vice president, General Scowcroft, Governor Sununu, and a CIA briefer. This morning, they were joined by Secretary of State Baker and CIA Director Judge Webster.

Secretary Baker and Secretary Cheney had their regular Wednesday morning breakfast with General Scowcroft. Today, the president will have lunch with Secretary Baker and will meet with his Education Policy Advisory Committee at two o'clock.

The rest of the day will be spent working at his desk, conferring with General Scowcroft, and generally considering events in the gulf. The president is steeled for what's ahead, he has set a clear course, and his hand is steady at the helm.